

to join me in paying tribute to Jan Karski, who passed away on July 13th at the age of 86. A man of extraordinary courage, Karski risked his life to journey into the danger of the Warsaw ghetto and the Belzec death camp as a member of the Polish underground during World War II. He did this to gain first hand information and then convey the horrors of the Nazi regime to the Allied leaders. The enormity of Karski's task was confirmed after his meeting with the head of the Zionist organization and the leader of the Jewish Socialist Alliance. According to Karski, his mission was to transmit material to the Polish and Allied governments which "constituted the expression and contained the information, sentiments, requests, and instructions of the entire Jewish population of Poland as a unit, a population that was at the moment dying as a unit."

After speaking with London authorities in 1942, Karski's frightful accounts were met with disbelief and denial. Yet he continued to deliver his searing report of Nazi atrocities and of Hitler's Final Solution, spending months briefing government and community leaders in Britain and in the United States. It is difficult to imagine the turmoil Karski must have suffered, as he was constantly called upon to recall the ghastly scenes he had witnessed and to recount the new unprecedented criminality. Because of his perseverance, Karski is credited with providing President Franklin D. Roosevelt with the motivation to establish the United States War Refugee Board, an organization that saved tens of thousands of Jewish lives toward the end of World War II.

Born in 1914 in Lodz, Poland, Dr. Karski received a Master's Degree in Law and another Master's Degree in Diplomatic Sciences at the Jan Kazimierz University in Lvov in 1935. After completing his education in Germany, Switzerland, and Great Britain in the years 1936–38, he entered the Polish diplomatic service. His following years were marked by extraordinary contributions to Nazi resistance efforts. Conscripted into the Polish army in August 1939, Karski was eventually taken prisoner by the Red Army and sent to a Russian prisoner of war camp. He escaped in November 1939, returned to German-occupied Poland and joined the anti-Nazi underground. Because of his knowledge of languages and foreign countries, he was used as a courier between the government-in-exile in London and underground authorities in Poland. In this capacity he made several secret trips between France, Great Britain and Poland. In August of 1943, he personally reported to President Roosevelt, Secretary of State Cordell Hull, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, and other United States government leaders.

After the war, Jan Karski moved to the United States where he married, became an American citizen, and received a doctorate from Georgetown University. Mr. Karski went on to have a distinguished academic career at Georgetown, and he also served as a special envoy and as a witness for the American government on a number of occasions. In 1956–57, and again in 1966–67, he was sent by the State Department on six-month lecture tours to sixteen countries in Asia and in French-speaking Africa. On numerous occasions, he was asked by various Congressional committees to testify on Eastern European Affairs. He lectured extensively at the Defense Intelligence Air University, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, and other government and civic institutions.

Mr. Karski is also a respected author. His book, "Story of a Secret State", which describes his experiences during World War II, was a bestseller. He was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to inspect Polish, British and French archives for his major scholarly work, "The Great Powers and Poland, 1919–45" (from Versailles to Yalta). His many honors also include the distinction of "Righteous Gentile," bestowed by the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem. Karski is also an honorary citizen of Israel, the recipient of a special citation by the United Nations, and the recipient of the Order of Virtuti Militari, the highest Polish military decoration.

Jan Karski's humility was always evident throughout his life. When visiting the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, he came upon the Rescuer's Wall, where tribute is paid to non-Jews who helped to save Jewish lives. He quickly passed the plaque upon which his own name was inscribed, instead preferring to seek out the names of his underground comrades. He was always quick to point out that "the Jews were abandoned by governments, by church hierarchies, and by societal structures. But they were not abandoned by all humanity." He felt that he was no different from anyone else who tried to ease the plight of the Jewish people. Remarkably, he insisted that he did "nothing extraordinary."

In an editorial last week paying tribute to Jan Karski, the Washington Post (July 19, 2000) observed: "A community's heroes are not necessarily its noisiest or most prominent citizens. Certainly neither adjective applied to Jan Karski, . . . but Mr. Karski was an authentic moral hero." Despite his protestations, Jan Karski's contribution to humanity was indeed remarkable. Shimon Peres said, "A great man is one who stands head and shoulder above his people, a man who, when surrounded by overpowering evil and blind hatred, does all in his power to stem the tide. Karski ranks high in the all-too-brief list of such great and unique personalities who stood out in the darkest age of Jewish history." And in the words of Elie Wiesel: "Jan Karski: a brave man? Better: a just man."

Mr. Speaker, once again I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the courage and selflessness of Jan Karski. He was an authentic moral hero who risked his life to fulfill what he considered to be his duty as a human being.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2000

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 429, on motion to grant the consent of the Congress to the Kansas and Missouri Metropolitan Culture District Compact, had I been present, I would have voted "yea"; on roll call no. 430, motion to Community Renewal and New Markets Act, had I been present, I would have voted "yea"; on roll call no. 431, motion on Innocent Child Protect Act, had I been present, I would have voted "yea"; on roll call no. 432, motion on Veterans Claims Assistance Act, had I been present, I would have voted "yea"; on roll call no. 433, to suspend the rules and agree to Fisherman's Protective

Act Amendments, had I been present, I would have voted "nay"; on roll call no. 434, on motion to National Underground Railroad Freedom Center Act, had I been present, I would have voted "yea"; on roll call no. 435, on motion to permitting the Secretary of the Interior to acquire title to the Hunt House located in Waterloo, NY in the Women's Rights National Historical Park, had I been present, I would have voted "yea"; on roll call no. 436, on motion to designating the Carl Elliott Federal Building in Jasper, Alabama, had I been present, I would have voted "yea"; on roll call no. 437, on motion to expressing the sense of Congress concerning the 210th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Coast Guard, had I been present, I would have voted "yea"; and on roll call no. 438, on motion to Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act, had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

INDIA COALITION PARTNER THREATENS TO ENGULF COUNTRY IN VIOLENCE

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2000

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, last week, Bal Thackeray, founder and head of Shiv Sena, threatened to engulf India in violence if he is held accountable for his part in thousands of deaths in 1992.

Shiv Sena is a coalition partner of the ruling BJP. Shiv Sena has been assigned responsibility for the bombing of the Ayodhya mosque in Uttar Pradesh.

How could a democratic country accept a violent, intolerant person like this into the government? It is bad enough that the allies of the government commit atrocities and no one is ever held to account. Now a coalition partner says that he will engulf the country in violence. This shows that violence and intolerance are the prevailing way to life in India. Minorities are suffering from the intolerance of militant Hindu fundamentalists.

A wave of violence against Christians has swept India since Christmas 1998. The most recent incident was the bombing of two churches in the state of Karnataka. The violence against Christians has been so severe that they appealed to the international community for help. Churches have been burned and now bombed. There have been attacks on prayer halls, Christian schools, and other Christian institutions. Militant Hindu nationalists burned missionary Graham Staines and his two young boys to death in their jeep while they were sleeping.

These atrocities show the truth about India. If it is "the world's largest democracy," how can it allow atrocities like this to keep occurring with nobody being held responsible? As the world's only superpower and the bastion of freedom for the world, we should take action. We should stop aid to India until all people within its borders enjoy human rights. And we should put the Congress on record in support of self-determination for the people of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagalim, and all the countries seeking their freedom from India.

I submit the article on Mr. Thackeray into the RECORD, Mr. Speaker. I hope everyone will read it.